

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 /101 W

-----065546 030926Z /16

R 020931Z JUN 78

FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2459

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUBUMBASHI 0631

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINS, MILI, CG

SUBJECT: COURT MARTIAL OF EX-BRIGADIER GENERAL TASHIKEVA

REF: KINSHASA 5651

1. SEVERAL INFORMED SOURCES IN LUBUMBASHI HAVE REPORTED THAT GENERAL TSHIKEVA WAS PUT ON TRIAL AND CONDEMNED TO DEATH BECAUSE SCAPEGOAT NEEDED FOR FALL OF KOLWEZI. TSHIKEVA'S CRIME WAS TO BE CAUGHT AT HIS HOUSE WITHOUT A RADIO OR TELEPHONE AND CUT OFF FROM HEADQUARTERS AND TROOPS AT TIME OF ATTACK. IT IS BELIEVED THAT HE WAS SICK AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, AND ANGERED INFLUENTIAL LOWER RANKING OFFICERS. LOCAL JOURNALISTS SAY THAT OFFICIAL VERSION OF EVENTS AS APPEARED IN PRESS IS TOTALLY MISLEADING.

2. COURT APPOINTED LAWYER WHO DEFENDED GENERAL TSHIKEVA WAS MBU NE LETANG, WHO IS PROBABLY LEADING ZAIRIAN LAWYER IN LUBUMBSHI. MBU HAD DEFENDED COLONEL MAMPA A FRIEND OF MANY YEARS, WHO WAS SCAPEGOAT ACCUSED OF TREASON AFTER 1977 WAR. MBU HAD TURNED DOWN REQUEST EARLIER IN THE
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WEEK TO DEFEND TSHIKEVA BECAUSE HE WAS UNACQUAINTED WITH THE GENERAL AND DID NOT FEEL HE SHOULD BE DEFENDER OF MILITARY "TRAITORS" SECOND YEAR IN A ROW. AFTER ACCEPTING COURT APPOINTMENT AND MEETING GENERAL TSHIKEVA MBU WAS CONVINCED THAT CHARGES WERE TRUMPED UP AND THE GOVERNMENT WAS MERELY LOOKING FOR ANOTHER SCAPEGOAT TO COVER FOR GENERAL FAZ INCOMPETENCE.

BORRG

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVASIONS, COURTS MARTIAL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB00631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780232-0948
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197806103/aaaadkle.tel
Line Count: 64
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3926777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 KINSHASA 5651
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2146350
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COURT MARTIAL OF EX-BRIGADIER GENERAL TASHIKEVA
TAGS: PINS, MILI, CG, (TSHIKEVA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3926777c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014